



# SAUGATUCK TOWNSHIP FIRE DISTRICT

Proudly serving : Douglas | Saugatuck | Saugatuck Township



3342 Blue Star Highway  
Saugatuck, MI 49453  
269 857-3000 / Fax: 269 857-1228  
E-mail: [office@saugatuckfire.org](mailto:office@saugatuckfire.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Southwest Michigan Area Fire Departments Unveil Collaborative Live Fire Training Facility August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am

*Live fire training is essential to the health and safety of Firefighting Personnel, and the community.*

(Saugatuck, Michigan – August 28<sup>th</sup> at 11 am) – Saugatuck Township Fire District invites the public to attend a ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the new Live Fire Training Facility at 3342 Blue Star Highway, Saugatuck. The project represents collaborative financial efforts of the communities and Fire Departments of Clyde, Fennville, Ganges, Graafschap, Hamilton, Holland, and Saugatuck Township Fire District, who share the beliefs that collaboration, teamwork excellence, and sound fiscal management, benefits the health, safety, and welfare our citizens, visitors, and firefighters.

It is impossible to anticipate how a firefighter will react inside a burning building. The thick toxic smoke, flames, and heat generated by modern building materials can disorient even the most experienced firefighters. This new facility will enable area fire departments to acclimate firefighters to the conditions experienced in a live fire. The partners of this project believe that this will reduce the number of deaths to firefighters and civilians; reduce property damage; improve recruitment and retention; increase efficiency and morale; and save taxpayers money through a reduction in lost time injuries, and compensation claims.

This collaborative project is the first of its kind in Southwest Michigan and has been made possible through the generous support of: Busscher Construction, Fleis & VandenBrink, The Padnos Family, Allegan Community Foundation, What Not Inn, Mermaid Bar & Grill, Saugatuck Douglas Foundation, Fae Wightman Family, Hamilton Ready Mix, Shag's Shop, Hamilton Truck Services, Tim Erlandson Construction, CHS Energy, S.A. Morman & CO, Star Rigging & Crane, Michigan Gas Utilities, SouthSide Body & Fabrication, and Holland Equipment Services.

“I am extremely pleased to see this resource become available for our area fire departments. Utilizing this facility to train firefighters under severe heat and obscured visibility conditions will instill a cultural change across the state and enhance our efforts in community risk reduction.” said Saugatuck Township Fire District Chief Greg Janik, President of Allegan County Fire Chief's Association.

###

If you would like more information about the event, please contact Chief Greg Janik at (616) 836-6266 or [gjanik@saugatuckfire.org](mailto:gjanik@saugatuckfire.org).